

County of Los Angeles – Department of Mental Health
MHC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
 Virtual Presentation & Meeting

Highlights -Thursday, April 9, 2020, 10 am
 Brittney Weissman, Chair, Presiding

I. Call to Order

Chair Announcement - Thank you for your efforts to get this teleconference meeting together. OCFA staff is present but no Spanish translation today. We will work on it for the full meeting. ACCESS Line is always available.

Roll Call – Stacy Dagleish (here), Harold Turner (here), Brittany Weissman (here), Patrick Ogawa (here)

II. DMH Update – Crystal Kibby announced OCFA OD line is open taking referrals (213 738 3948). DMH Executives presented updates in response to the COVID19 crisis:

Lisa Wong: All DMH staff immersed in response to COVID-19 24/7, all directly operated programs remain open; AV main clinic and wellness center consolidated, curtailed hours, i.e. Olive View has no regular outpatient on Saturdays; LPS open 24/7; some extended hours have been adjusted to/cut from 8-5 for in-person; changes how clients are seen in response to COVID-19, reduce foot traffic, in-person non-essential services suspended, injections, labs, 5150, etc. Still doing face to face, reduce number of staff and clients; screen clients at the door, asked whether symptomatic to take a different course of action, screen for routine/medication need or are in a crisis, etc. injections, etc., can still come in, refills over the phone and other standard appointments, increased virtual network capacity, DBT groups via telehealth, assigned all telehealth to call entire caseload, etc. Phone appointments etc. via phone or computer. Clients with phone number changes, etc. receive letters, home bound clients are being seen, FSP are triaged in the same way. Temporary modification to clinic protocols to directly operated clinics and contract partners, document is similar but less details, covers basic clinic ops that need to change in light of operations, parity in services, etc.

La Tina Jackson: Countywide Engagement Division, Homeless Outreach Services, engagement of the streets, HOME and AOT, Women's Reintegration, etc. Initially when COVID19 started, resources for co-located programs and triaged high risk clients from streets and jails, shelter coordination and follow up to ensure they have basic supplies, education, and proactive wellness checks. DPH line for people experiencing homelessness, e.g., provide homeless veterans stationed at West LA campus resources for available housing, women's jail using Zoom, CIOB provide methods to communicate referrals, transportation from jails to housing when released and ongoing treatment, face time capabilities in real time on the street and for follow up. Cold weather shelter program extended to September 30.

Maria Funk: Housing and job development, B&Cs, supportive housing, technical assistance to facilities of congregate sites know how to respond, know how to isolate, know how to function without having to close. DPH giving guidance, community care licensing, asked for a COVID-19 preparedness plan, how to respond and how to keep residence safe, regular webinars. DHS request daily symptom logs of client assistance, etc. Homeless services providers can call and get guidance and assistance, working with DPH to everyone getting equipment to interim housing and B&C sites. PSH are able to get food, operators saying issues getting food have limitations, workgroup and philanthropy including United Way to get resources and food to these facilities. B&C enhanced rates Feb-June increased \$760 above B&C rates. Some facilities are using \$2,000 increase as hazard pay to encourage staff to come to work. LA Jobs portal to post job listing for staffing shortage and provided nurse lines and lines for med assistive treatment. New hotels and motels are opening, 15,000-bed capacity for tier I clients for high risk clients 65+ and underlying medical condition, decompress

shelters, etc. able to move people from high risk categories. LAHSA opened call center so agencies can refer people and Housing Authority developed digital application for social distance.

QUESTIONS

Harold Turner: LPS urgent care still working, any involvement with county Public Guardian office with regard to 5150s and request for conservatorships, etc?

Response - Lisa Wong (Connie Draxler) – Office curtailed field visits, they will still do assessments to converse they will still do, Olive View urgent care, LPS portion of the urgent care on involuntary holds.

Patrick Ogawa: What is being done for mental health workers doing screenings in the jails, psych social workers located in the jail and help jail staff for assessment, status on those workers and how they are doing, most of the internal working of the jail done by DHS and correctional health workers and that workforce, or ODR and connected to DHS?

Response - Can't give an answer on how they are doing, safety of clients and staff is utmost concern.

Patrick Ogawa: When this is over do you anticipate increase in request for services?

Response – Yes, plan to develop more efficient and quickly responsive efforts to those that will have issues after the fact.

Patrick Ogawa: Can I get referral list developed for post COVID-19 to relieve the workforce

Response - Members of the community stepping up and volunteer in some capacity, come up with a low cost no cost network and willing to see folks after COVID-19, DMH waiving live scan to bring people in and instantly sign up and take oath

Patrick/Kevin/Michael - Interested in hearing from jail and what is happening in the population

Susan Friedman - Anyone right now who maybe sheltered but needs some kind of mental health help?

Response - Crystal provided OCFA advocates # 213-738-3948 and Access Line 800-854-7771

Susan Friedman - People who could pay can get hooked up with therapist, State Commission can tell people how to get connected to a therapist

Response – Stacy forward links from Assoc. of Marriage and Family Therapists, etc.

All questions have been answered, thankful of the adjustments that had to be made.

Brittney Wiessman:

1. What is the percentage of staff that is not able to show up to work?

Lisa - roll call sheet, every program has to complete for each staff member, telework, on site, deployed, etc. Over 15% not able to work in their regular role, exposed not symptoms and can still telework, etc.

2. DMH clients tested positive or hospitalized?

Lisa - don't know but can find out and report back and reporting as we find out about clients, instances when they found out after the fact.

3. Healthcore at State level - Provisions that have been waived, certain amount of time waived as well

Susan: State waived and pushed dates way up, cancelled exams, etc.

Stacy: required to show that Hep B is up to date

4. Average response time changes for PMRT with fewer staff and more need.
La Tina - Average response time has not really changed, or fluctuated, Mariam Brown for specifics, call volume not gone down just done in a different way
5. B&C operators, etc. honor safer at home orders, etc.

III. Commission Business –

- a. MHSA on hold until further notice
- b. Elections for MHC – Given that no meetings in person are taking place hold off on election until we can move forward. Officers and everything remain in place as is for the time being.
No objections? Patrick, Susan, Turner, Stacy, etc. no objections.
- c. Patrick – send something to other commissioners that it's ok for others to join this call
- d. Anyone wants further info?
 - Susan - further info on jail status, fear of a huge breakout and sending people home from jail and don't know who they will contact
 - Stacy - would like to be kept up to date on the housing aspects, etc.
Brittney - same leadership team to provide updates and have as a standing item

Public Comment Received

What plan does the department have in place to ensure for the continuity of services for the Latino, American Indian/Alaska Native, LGBTIA2S, African/African American, Asian Pacific Islander, Eastern European/Middle Eastern, Disabled, and immigrant/migrant communities during this COVID19 emergency?

-Hector Ramirez

IV. Adjourn – 11:10 am

Next Meeting – Thursday, May 8, 2020 @ 10:00 am – 12:00 pm CANCELLED

Next Meeting – Thursday, June 11, 2020 @ 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Highlights prepared by – Canetana Hurd